

PSSA Domain Rubric for Writing

| Domain Descriptions | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| | Focus | Content | Organization | Style | Conventions |
| | The single controlling point made with an awareness of task (mode) about a specific topic | The presence of ideas developed through facts; examples, anecdotes, details, opinions, statistics, reasons, and/or explanations | The order developed and sustained within and across paragraphs using transitional devices and including introduction and conclusion | The choice, use and arrangement of words arrangement of words and sentence structures that create tone and voice | Grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage and sentence formation |
| Domain Scoring Points and Descriptions | | | | | |
| PL | Focus | Content | Organization | Style | Conventions |
| 4 | Sharp, distinct controlling point made about a single topic with evident awareness of task | Substantial, specific; and/or illustrative content demonstrating strong development and sophisticated ideas | Sophisticated arrangement of content with evident and/or subtle transitions | Precise, illustrative use of a variety of words and sentence structures to create consistent writer's voice and tone | Evident control of grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage and sentence formation |
| 3 | Apparent point made about a single topic with sufficient awareness of task (mode) | Sufficiently developed content with adequate elaboration or explanation | Functional arrangement of content that sustains a logical order with some evidence of transitions | Generic use of a variety of words and sentence structures that may or may not create writer's voice and tone appropriate to audience | Sufficient control of grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage and sentence formation |
| 2 | No apparent point but evidence of a specific topic | Limited content with inadequate elaboration or explanation | Confused or inconsistent arrangement of content with or without attempts at transition | Limited word choice and control of sentence structures that inhibit voice and tone | Limited control of grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage and sentence formation |
| 1 | Minimal evidence of a topic | Superficial and/or minimal content | Minimal control of intent arrangement | Minimal variety in word choice and minimal control of sentence structures | Minimal control of grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage and sentence formation |